

School Nutrition Update

January 9-13, 2023



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Program Operations Information

Prepare for the 2023 N.C. Summer Nutrition Program Application and Continuing Education

Between now and February, set yourself up for success next summer by planning the following:

- Turn in your completed Statement of Intent, available in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) Download Forms.
- Start to determine sites that will be operating in 2023.
- Look at gaps in your coverage and use the [N.C. Capacity Builder](#) to identify areas to expand your meal services.
- Submit the online application for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in the SNTS, with the basics of what you know at the current time. (You can always add or change info.)
- Attend a SummerPalooza *Destination Summer* - January 2023. We will celebrate our 2022 successes, provide updates on summer regulations, and discuss ways to make your program the destination to be this summer. SummerPalooza Summits are scheduled for 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Check-in begins at 8:30 am. Lunch will be provided. Choose from 1 of 3 options below. Information will be repeated on each date. Each attendee should register separately.
 - **Tuesday, January 17, 2023 - Hickory**
 - Hickory Metro Convention Center: 1960 13th Avenue Drive SE
 - Hickory Registration: <https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-N-DSCSFSP&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000001>
 - **Thursday, January 19, 2023 - Greenville**
 - Holiday Inn Greenville: 203 SW Greenville Boulevard
 - Greenville Registration: <https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-N-DSCSFSP&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000002>
 - **Friday, January 20, 2023 - Raleigh**
 - McKimmon Center: 1101 Gorman Street
 - Raleigh Registration: <https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-N-DSCSFSP&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000003>
- Plan for the School Food Authority (SFA) Continuing Education:
 - Complete the Required Annual Continuing Education (RACE) Online by February 28, 2023 (scheduled release date February 1, 2023).
 - Additional trainings on Meal Counting and Claiming/Cartwheel will be offered. Check future SN Updates for registration details.
 - If your SFA is scheduled for a SFSP Administrative Review, you will be invited to a RACE Live Training, tentatively held March 2023.

If you have questions, please reach out to the NCDPI, Summer Nutrition Program team.

Get Ready for the 2023 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition!

For the 2023 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition (NCJCC), teams of 2-4 high school students (grades 9-12) currently enrolled in a North Carolina public school that participates in the National School Lunch Program are encouraged to work with an Adult Team Supervisor (School Nutrition Administrator or Public School Educator – Ag, Family and Consumer Sciences, Math, Science, etc. Teacher) to create a school lunch entrée recipe that adheres to National School Lunch Program regulations, features at least two North Carolina grown ingredients and one USDA Foods item, and appeals to students. Student members of the top three teams will win scholarships to attend Sullivan University.



This year, teams will work together at their schools to develop and test their recipe, complete competition requirements, and submit required materials. Based on applications and recipes submitted, up to eight finalist teams will be selected to compete in the cook-off. Finalist teams will participate virtually in interviews with a panel of evaluators and a recognition ceremony.

- February 3 – Teams must submit the online submission form with application, recipe, recipe photo, cost and nutrient analysis, and permission forms.
- February 20 – Finalist teams will be notified.
- March 10 – Finalist teams must submit the online submission form including final applications with recipe, recipe photo, cost and nutrient analysis, video of the team preparing and plating their recipe, and a work plan for completing the dish within the 90-minute time limit.
- March 28 or 29 – Finalist teams will participate in live interviews with a panel of evaluators.
- March 30 – Finalist teams will participate in virtual ceremony. All finalist teams will be recognized, and the competition results will be announced.

The NCJCC first-place team will advance to the Southeast Jr. Chef Competition at Sullivan University in Kentucky May 11-12. Competition info and materials are posted on the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#). Participate in a [webinar](#) on January 11 at 4 pm to learn more about the 2023 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition.

School Nutrition Spotlight

Encouraging “Big Ideas”

The Carolina Hunger Initiative has awarded two local School Nutrition Programs with funds for “Big Ideas”. Congratulations to Craven County Schools and Wilson County Schools for being selected to receive financial awards from the Carolina Hunger Initiative, supported by a gift from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. The “Big Ideas” opportunity asked eligible school districts for outside-the-box proposals to increase participation in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools. The selected ideas will also help address staffing challenges. Since 2019, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina has partnered with the Carolina Hunger Initiative to support grants to more than 50 schools and community organizations that provide healthy meals to kids in need statewide. [Learn more](#) about the “Big Ideas” grants.

Share Your School Nutrition Photos

The NCDPI, School Nutrition Division wants to highlight the appealing, wholesome, quality meals our School Nutrition Programs across the state offer to students each day. Share your beautiful photos of serving lines and complete school breakfast or school lunch meals with us. Please send to Tracey Bates, NCDPI School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, at tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov. Make sure to include the school and district info so we can aim to credit the source. Be on the lookout for photos of school meals from across the state on social media.



Transylvania County Schools

Send in Articles or Topics of Interest for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

If you have a resource, grant, job opportunity, continuing education event, award announcement, shout out or other news item for the School Nutrition Update, please send a brief article (250 words or less) to Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov, by 12 pm on the Wednesday prior to when the SN Update is sent out the following week. Please include “**SN Update**” in the email subject line. If there are topics of interest you would also like to see included, please share as well.

Job Opportunity

Apply for Nash County School Nutrition Supervisor Position

Nash County Schools is seeking applicants for an open School Nutrition Supervisor position. A bachelor’s degree with a major in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, or a related field or at least 5 years’ experience in School Nutrition Programs with at least 3 years in a management or supervisory role is required. Applicants must have completed a food protection manager certification recognized by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services no more than 5 years prior to starting date or must complete training and certification within 30 days of hire date. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Work with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools – SN Supervisor Opening

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) is seeking applicants for a Supervisor, School Nutrition Inventory and Procurement. This position is responsible for performing a variety of duties related to the acquisition and distribution of food, supplies, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) donated commodity food ensuring compliance with all federal and state regulations. [Learn more and apply.](#) Contact CMS School Nutrition Executive Director, Catherine Essick, catherinem.essick@cms.k12.nc.us, with questions.

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Cooking Matters at Home

The Carolina Hunger Initiative (CHI) is offering free, online cooking and nutrition education classes to share information about buying healthy, affordable foods that families can prepare and eat together at home. The online classes will be held on Wednesday nights at 7 pm, beginning January 18. Learn more, download promotional materials and register for the classes on the CHI [website](#).

Continuing Education

Register for the 2023 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference – 2/22

Registration is now open for the 2023 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference, an annual day of celebration and inspiration for anyone invested in making sure kids have access to healthy food. The one-day event, presented by the Carolina Hunger Initiative at the University of North Carolina, will take place at The Friday Conference Center in Chapel Hill on February 22, 8 am-4 pm ET. Attendees will have a chance to connect with other child hunger leaders from across the state, learn about new strategies and success stories, and leave reenergized to continue the fight against child hunger. More details on the agenda are forthcoming. Speakers in recent years have included State Superintendent Catherine Truitt, the N.C. Teacher and Principal of the Year, and Governor Roy Cooper. [Learn more and register](#).



Forging Our Food Future: Community Food Gathering – 3/15-16

The registration for the Forging Our Food Future: 2023 Community Food Gathering on March 15 - 16 is now open! The gathering, hosted by Community Food Strategies, will be held at the Rocky Mount Event Center. More than 200 farm and food leaders, policy advocates, local food councils, public service and nonprofit leaders, key partners, and other community food advocates will come together in Rocky Mount. This event organizes various food systems practitioners to explore solutions, learn skills, and strategize around how to create a food system built by us and for us. An engaging agenda is planned to feature:

- Multiple peer-to-peer networking opportunities
- Inspiring nationally renowned keynote speaker
- A panel of North Carolina food advocacy leaders engaging in state level food system organizing
- ~15 skill-building and knowledge-sharing workshop sessions and panel discussions by 20+ local, statewide, and national speakers across four workshop tracks including:
 1. Policy - opportunities to learn and engage with current and upcoming food-related policy and advocacy campaigns, ideas, and actions
 2. Increasing Impact - skills, techniques, and models for increasing impact and building an organizational culture that creates more equitable outcomes
 3. Food & Community Health - case studies, solutions, and analysis of ways to improve health of people, land, and community
 4. Regional Food Economies - new and existing value-based solutions that create wealth throughout local food infrastructure
- Facilitated state level policy and advocacy action planning session
- An afterparty with a story slam highlighting North Carolina's community food advocates and stories

View the [gathering website](#) to register and find scholarship information. Note the following deadlines:

- January 10 - Workshop proposals due
- January 15 - Early bird registration pricing ends

- February 1 - Scholarship applications due

Access Virtual Training Opportunities

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) has compiled [resources to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus](#). Online food safety/HACCP training is available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#) and the ICN [website](#). Additional continuing education resources are available on the School Nutrition [website](#) from NCDPI, ICN, the School Nutrition Association and other agencies and organizations. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers [continuing professional education resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs).

Questions

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please reach out to your regional consultants.

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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